

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program Grant Application

Introduction:

In response to the continuing economic and environmental crises created by the growing infestations of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Idaho's pristine waters, the Idaho State Legislature in its Second Regular Session of the 58th Idaho Legislature appropriated \$4 million to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) for eradication and control of Eurasian Watermilfoil. The Legislature directed these funds to be expended over a two-year period beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2008. As directed by H.B. 869 (2006), ISDA will expend the appropriated funds as grants to support on-the-ground Eurasian Watermilfoil eradication and control projects.

Applications for grant funds associated with this program shall be submitted only to ISDA. As the designated lead agency administering the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program, ISDA staff has conferred with both state and federal agencies that will coordinate and facilitate processing, prioritization, and approval of grant applications.

Available grant funds will be distributed to as many high-priority projects throughout the state as possible in an equitable and meaningful allocation. In the context of this grant program, "equitable" and "meaningful" are defined as:

Equitable: Selecting and providing assistance to as many stakeholder and partner projects as practicable based on careful evaluation, review, and prioritization of milfoil control grant proposals.

Meaningful: Selecting and providing assistance to project proposals demonstrating effectiveness, results-orientation, innovation, focus on critical needs, collaborative efforts, sound economics, and good environmental sense.

At the discretion of the Director, individual projects may be modified based on recommendations from the review committee or ISDA staff. Additionally, the Director may, at any time, modify the grant program or project requirements.

ISDA provides the following guidance to assist interested parties, stakeholders, and partners in their requests to the agency for grant funds to eradicate and control Eurasian Watermilfoil wherever it exists throughout the state of Idaho.

First Year:

- Applications received at ISDA on or before 5 p.m. May 15, 2006. Submit in any one of the following ways:

Email: weeds@idahoag.us

Fax: (208) 334-2840

Mailing Address:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weeds Program
P. O. Box 790
Boise, ID 83701

Physical Address:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weeds Program
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, ID 83712

- Awards announced by ISDA with Award Letter: June 2006
- Grant agreements between ISDA and Grantee signed: June 15-30, 2006
- Report showing all dollars spent or approved carryover letter on file and final reports due: November 30, 2006

Funding Caps:

There will be no strict funding caps on grant amounts; however, all proposals will be evaluated against the program objective of being equitable and meaningful.

Grant Eligibility:

- The intent of grant funds is to support on-the-ground implementation projects with goals *to eradicate and/or control* the further spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil.
- Applicants are encouraged to cooperate with any public or private organization involved in milfoil control, research, education, and mapping to enhance Idaho's milfoil control efforts.
- Proposals will be accepted from individuals, groups of individuals, businesses, and organizations related to Idaho's Eurasian Watermilfoil control efforts.
- Proposals that involve collaboration or partnerships between lake management groups, homeowner groups, counties, Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), industry groups, academics, or other organizations will be given additional consideration.
- Applicants may cooperate with any public or private organizations involving milfoil control, research, education, or mapping to enhance Idaho's milfoil control efforts.
- If two or more individuals or organizations propose a joint project, they should submit one application as co-applicants.

Project Types:

The following are a few examples of projects that could be considered for grant funding:

- Milfoil control projects using herbicide applications
- Milfoil control projects using diver dredging or bottom barriers
- Projects that increase public education and awareness

Preference will be given to projects that are eradication oriented in nature and involve collaboration or partnerships.

Program Policies:

ISDA reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals received.
- Waive or modify minor irregularities in proposals received after prior notification agreement of applicant.
- Provide partial funding for specific proposal components that may be less than the full amount requested in the grant application.
- Provide opportunity for training and certification testing for professional aquatic pesticide applicators as needed.
- Require a good-faith effort from the project sponsor to work with the ISDA subsequent to project completion to develop reporting data or implement the project results, where applicable.
- Withhold any payments that do not meet grant conditions.
- Require forfeiture or return of grant monies used for disallowed or unauthorized expenditures.

Grantee must agree to:

- Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, regulations, rules, and orders. The grant will be governed by and constructed in accordance with laws of the state of Idaho.
- Provide for an Idaho licensed professional aquatic pesticide applicator if grant proposal includes the use of aquatic herbicide for milfoil eradication and control.
- Be accountable for all grant funds awarded.
- Maintain books, records, receipts, and accounting procedures and practices sufficient to reflect all costs claimed to have been incurred for the performance of the grant agreement.
- Submit interim and final reports that document all grant expenditures.
- Make receipts, books, and records available for audit or examination by the Department of Agriculture or Secretary of State when requested.
- Maintain records for three years from start date to completion of the project.
- Obtain prior approval from ISDA if there is: 1) any major revision of the project scope or objectives after a project is funded; 2) need to extend the project period; or, 3) changes in key persons associated with the project.
- Submit regular progress reports.
- Be eligible to sign a contract with ISDA.

Funding Allocation:

For projects, funding will be allocated 25 percent upon awarding the grant and signing the contract, 50 percent upon project initiation, with 25 percent on project completion.

Acceptable Expenses:

The grant program **WILL** cover the following expenses:

- Project start-up and organization costs
- Eradication or control technologies
- Consultant fees
- Subcontractors
- Supplies and materials
- Data processing
- Bookkeeping and clerical
- Telephone, fax, and other communication expenses associated with the project

The grant program **WILL NOT** fund the following expenses:

- Paying off existing debt
- Substituting existing efforts or research already funded
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Business entertainment or business gifts
- Overhead, administrative staff, or fixed costs

Employees of ISDA and members of their immediate families are not eligible to apply for or receive a grant.

Selection Criteria:

- Identified milfoil infestation
- Ability to track and account for funding
- Mapping, interface capability
- Measurable results
- Quality of project
- Soundness of management plan
- Capabilities of project leaders and staff
- Milfoil implementation strategy in place
- Overall environmental and economic benefit to Idaho lakes or waters
- Long-term impact to Idaho waters
- Extent of collaborative efforts to leverage resources
- Functional County Weed Superintendent position
- Availability of weed control resources: divers, boats, mapping
- Match: Match contributions will be considered as additional emphasis, but are "not" required to qualify for funding

Weighted Evaluation Process:

- Minimum categories met
- 1 – 10 points for each of 14 items
- Priority based on known infestation (see attached map)
- Award based on total points and/or evaluation

Evaluation Team:

An evaluation team will be appointed by the Director to evaluate and to provide prioritized funding recommendations to the Director. The team will consist of representatives from the following groups, such as: Legislators, Eurasian Watermilfoil Task Force, Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, County Commissioners, and County Weed Superintendents.

The evaluation team will be facilitated by the Idaho State Weed Coordinator (Bureau Chief, Noxious Weeds, ISDA).

Evaluation Team Responsibilities:

1. Evaluate proposals based on minimum criteria
2. Recommend funding level
3. Review evaluation process

Application Instructions:

1. Cover Sheet: Please complete one Application Cover Sheet for each project.
2. Narrative and Short Term Activity Exemption: Please write a narrative project proposal of three pages or less that includes the Narrative Questions and Short Term Activity Exemption Worksheet sections. Questions are used as guidelines to assist you in writing the grant.
3. Budget: Please attach a budget detailing how the grant funds will be utilized.
4. Support Letters: Please enclose letters of support and evidence of any match commitments, along with the application materials.
5. Submission: Please submit one (1) copy of complete application package for each proposed project to:

Email: weeds@idahoag.us

Fax: (208) 334-2840

Mailing Address:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weeds Program
P. O. Box 790
Boise, ID 83701

Physical Address:

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Noxious Weeds Program
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, ID 83712

Narrative Questions to Answer in Application:

Background and Justification:

- What is the Eurasian Watermilfoil problem that your project will address?
- Why is the project important and timely?
- What has the community done already to assess the need or address the problem?
- What evidence is there that the project is a high priority for the water body?

Goals and Objectives:

- What are the goals and objectives of this activity?
- Other?

Activity Plan:

- Describe the activity(ies) that will take place through this project and how they will be executed.
- What are the timelines and milestones?
- Who will be involved in the project and what are their roles and responsibilities?
- What is the licensed professional applicator's name and license number?
- What are the manufacturer's name, brand name and EPA Reg. No. of the aquatic herbicide(s) you intend to use?
- How does the activity planned address the problem?

Expected Outcomes:

- What evaluation criteria will be used to measure the success of this project?
- What will be the tangible benefits to the water resources community and to Idaho waters?
- What is the probability of the project achieving its goals?

For additional information you may call: 208 332-8528 or send an email to weeds@idahoag.us.

Eurasian Watermilfoil Infestations



Milfoil Present = 4,048
Susceptible = 250,334
Total State Water Bodies = 635,000

